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A GIRL DANCING ON THE SHORE

Dance on, dance swift to your flute's song,
    Girl of the setting sun!
The waves are wild to do you wrong
    Before the dance is done;
But your white fleeting feet
Have caught the sway and beat
    Of the ocean's eager cry.
The wave-men vainly strain
To drown your slow refrain
    And the flute's mellow sigh.

Dance on, dance swift, light on the breeze—
    You, the pale sea's fair daughter!
The sun has set beyond the seas
    In lakes of gilded water.
So play like tossing spray
As mistily fades the day,
    And smoke-blue shadows creep.
Now tread one rhythm more,
Then rest upon the shore
    And pipe the waves to sleep.

Henry C. Thomas